

mental hospitals to avail themselves of every opportunity for study, and for the improvement of their practical knowledge of their work. This would, in turn, result in raising still further the general standard of care and nursing of the insane.

In conclusion the speaker expressed the hope that the association together of general and mental nurses under this important measure would lead to mutual understanding, mutual sympathy, and mutual esteem.

THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME.

Colonel Mackintosh, of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, was in the House this week, looking after the interests of "The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland," as, naturally, this Society does not wish to be omitted from the Bill.

It will be remembered that delegates from this Association helped to compose the Central Committee and to draft its Bill. Later it accepted seats on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd.; and during the negotiations between these two organizations, which the Central Committee carried on with the utmost patience, the Association remained represented by some of the same delegates on both bodies. When, in 1918, the Central Committee decided to waste no further time in useless negotiations, but to proceed full steam ahead with its own Bill, "The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland" was invited to decide which Bill it intended to support, and was informed that if it was not prepared to loyally support the Central Committee's Bill, it was ineligible for affiliation. The Association publicly announced its intention to support the College Bill and withdrew from the Central Committee. Under these circumstances, the Association was not included amongst the constituent Societies in the Central Committee's Bill when introduced into the House this Session.

There appears, however, no reason why "The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland" should not be granted a representative on the initial Nursing Council in the Bill, four representatives of which must be resident in Scotland.

At the same time, inaccurate statements concerning the constituent Societies which compose the Central Committee are not permissible in this connection. For instance, that the combined membership of these Societies only amounts to 6,000! It is at least 15,000—not counting members of the Nurses' Leagues—many of which support the Central Committee's Bill through the National Council of Trained Nurses.

HOW IT IS DONE.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., is showering Petitions on Members of Parliament, from here, there and everywhere. All contain untruthful or

misleading statements; and, apparently, from many letters received, Matrons simply order the Nursing Staff to sign—and the majority do it.

An Army Sister writes:—

This past week another protest has been sent round, and placed by Matron on the green boards, protesting against the Government amendment *re* nurses in *bona fide* practice, and leaving out the words "produces evidence satisfactory to the Council . . . as to the conditions under which she was engaged," which gives the Council discretion as to who shall be registered under this clause. Why were these important words omitted from the Petition?

These Petitions are issued from no address, but all emanate from the College Council and members and officials. Copies have been sent out broadcast, and it would be incredible if it was not before me in black-and-white, that at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, and elsewhere, the following order appears at the foot of the Petition:

"Will all Members of the Nursing Staff please sign this Petition on Wednesday morning in the Office."

Why is this coercion permitted by the Army Council? Anyway the Director-General of the Army Medical Department should take steps to protect the public servants in his Department from such treatment. Indeed all over the country "College Matrons" are thrusting these Petitions forward; and from letters received, the nurses are given no explanation concerning them, not even where they emanate from, and we gather "it is understood we have to sign them." I sincerely hope that the attempt of the College Council to deprive the Nursing Profession of the legal status so devotedly worked for, and so ardently desired, will open the eyes of Parliament to the degrading condition of servitude prevailing in many of the Training Schools.

A FALSE AND MALICIOUS STATEMENT.

The following paragraph appeared in the *Evening Standard* on Tuesday last:—

NURSES AND REGISTRATION.

OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL TO ADMIT V.A.D.'S.

General trained nurses are strongly opposed to the adoption in committee of Mrs. Fenwick's amendment to the Nurses' Registration Bill, the effect of which would be to admit on the register V.A.D.s and others with three years' sick-room experience.

"As it now stands," said Miss Rundle, secretary to the College of Nursing, Ltd., to an *Evening Standard* representative, "Clause 12 of the Bill does not say anything about training at all. This body represents nearly 14,000 general trained nurses, all of whom naturally offer the strongest opposition to any such proposal.

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